UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA NEW ALBANY DIVISION

IN RE:)	
)	
EASTERN LIVESTOCK CO., LLC,)	Case No. 10-93904-BHL-11
)	
Debtor.)	Hon. Basil H. Lorch III

TRUSTEE'S MOTION TO APPROVE COMPROMISE AND SETTLEMENT WITH NU TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9019, James A. Knauer, as chapter 11 trustee ("<u>Trustee</u>") for the debtor, Eastern Livestock Co., LLC ("<u>Debtor</u>"), by counsel, respectfully moves the Court to approve the compromise and settlement of claims between the Trustee and Nu Technologies, Inc. ("<u>Nu Tech</u>"). In support of this Settlement Motion, the Trustee states as follows:

Introduction and Background

- 1. Certain petitioning creditors commenced the above-captioned chapter 11 case ("Chapter 11 Case") on December 6, 2010. The Court entered the *Order For Relief in An Involuntary Case and Order to Complete Filing* [Docket No. 110] on December 28, 2010.
- 2. On December 27, 2010, the Court entered the *Order Approving the*Appointment of James A. Knauer as Chapter 11 Trustee [Docket No. 102] approving the United

 States Trustee's Application for an Order Approving the Appointment of James A. Knauer as

 Chapter 11 Trustee [Docket No. 98] pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1104.
- 3. Prior to the Chapter 11 Case, Nu Tech purchased cattle from Debtor pursuant to contract. Nu Tech paid Debtor down money ("Down Money") to be applied towards the purchase price of the contract cattle. The Trustee claims that Nu Tech owed Debtor on account of Debtor's pre-Petition Date delivery of cattle to Nu-Tech. Nu Tech has satisfied a

portion of the Trustee's claims, but Debtor's books and records indicate that Nu Tech still owes Debtor \$419,139.19 on account of cattle delivered to Nu Tech and evidenced by ELC Invoice Nos. 314381, 314382, 316185, 314403, 310552, and 316181 (the "Nu Tech AR"). The Trustee has disclaimed rights to \$46,810.01 of the Nu Tech AR pursuant to a Court-approved settlement agreement with Vermillion Ranch Corporation d/b/a Northern Livestock Video Auction ("NLVA").

- 4. Nu Tech disputes the amount of the Trustee's claim, specifically challenging the value of the delivered cattle and trucking charges that Nu Tech claims Debtor previously agreed to pay.
- 5. Nu Tech filed a proof of claim ("Nu Tech POC") in the Chapter 11 Case. The Nu Tech POC is designated on the official claims register maintained by The BMC Group, Inc. as Claim No. 198. The Nu Tech POC asserts a secured setoff claim in the amount of \$32,160, alleging that Nu Tech paid Debtor \$32,160 in Down Money for cattle that were never delivered to Nu Tech. The Trustee has filed an objection to the Nu Tech POC.

The Settlement

6. The Trustee has negotiated a settlement of all disputes with Nu Tech on the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release attached hereto as Exhibit A ("Settlement Agreement"). Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, Nu Tech agrees to pay the Trustee the total sum of \$352,019.12 ("Payment Amount") in settlement of the Nu Tech AR. The Payment Amount represents a compromise and settlement of the Nu Tech AR in the amount of \$384,179.12, reduced by Nu Tech's secured setoff claim in the amount of \$32,160. Also, and because the Trustee has already disclaimed rights to \$46,810.01 of the Nu Tech AR, Nu Tech will deliver \$46,810.01 of the Payment Amount to NLVA in exchange for a release from NLVA

and the remaining \$305,209.11 of the Payment Amount to the Trustee. The Trustee requests that the Court modify the automatic stay of 11 U.S.C. § 362 to the extent necessary to allow Nu Tech to set off the Down Money.

7. The \$305,209.11 to be paid to the Trustee represents funds owing on Debtor's accounts receivable. In accordance with the terms of the Plan, the Trustee shall treat this payment as a recovery of collateral funds.

Basis for Relief

- 8. Pursuant to Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), this Court has authority to approve a compromise or settlement on motion made by the Trustee after notice and opportunity for a hearing.
- 9. Under Bankruptcy Rule 9019, a bankruptcy court should approve a proposed compromise if it is fair and equitable and in the best interests of the estate. See In re

 Doctors Hosp. of Hyde Park, Inc., 474 F.3d 421, 426 (7th Cir. 2007); Depoister v. Mary M.

 Holloway Found, 36 F.3d 582, 586 (7th Cir. 1994); Matter of Energy Co-op, Inc. 886 F.2d 921, 927 (7th Cir. 1989).
- 10. The Trustee believes that the compromise and settlement reflected in the proposed Settlement Agreement is fair and equitable and in the best interests of the estate. The reduction in the Nu Tech AR represents a reduction for the costs of trucking, which Nu Tech disputes, and cattle that did not conform with contract requirements. The Trustee believes that the reduction is insignificant and justified. The alternative to the settlement is litigation of the claims between the Trustee and Nu Tech which would result in expenses and delay and create the possibility of an outcome that would result in a smaller recovery to the estate.

11. The Trustee requests the Court to specify in any order granting this Settlement Motion that the automatic stay of 11 U.S.C. § 362 is modified to the extent necessary to allow Nu Tech to setoff the Down Money.

12. If no objections to this Settlement Motion are filed, the Trustee requests that the Court enter an order approving the Settlement Agreement. If any objections to this Settlement Motion are filed, the Trustee requests that this Settlement Motion and any timely filed objection be scheduled for hearing by the Court on the earliest date that is available and convenient to the Court.

WHEREFORE, the Trustee respectfully requests that the Court enter an order approving the Settlement Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit A and grant the Trustee all other just and proper relief.

Respectfully submitted,

FAEGRE BAKER DANIELS LLP

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on June 28, 2013, a copy of the foregoing pleading was filed electronically. Notice of this filing will be sent to the following parties through the Court's Electronic Case Filing System. Parties may access this filing through the Court's system.

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